GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1313
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2005
EXPLORATION OF OIL IN JOINT VENTURE WITH NORWAY
Singh Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal for exploration of oil in joint venture/collaboration with Norway;

(b) if so, the oil blocks indentified; and

(c) the terms and conditions laid down for offering oil blocks to Norway?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS & PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (c): There are no existing joint ventures with Norwegian companies for blocks in India. However, at the first meeting of the Indo-Norway Joint Working Group on Cooperation in the Hydro-Carbon sector held in New Delhi on 2 December, 2004, both sides agreed that there were ample opportunities for cooperation in the Exploration & Production sector in Norway, India and possibility in third countries, and agreed to facilitate commercial discussions between companies from both sides for commercial partnership arrangements and exchange of technology. It is hoped that Norwegian companies will consider bidding for the blocks on offer under New Exploration Licensing Policy-V(NELP-V) or for pre-NELP, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.(ONGC) blocks, either in their own or through joint ventures. The outcome will be known when bids for NELP-V close on 31 May, 2005.